

THE
CITIZEN OF THE WORLD.

By JOHN LOVETT, H. D.

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CITIZEN OF THE WORLD



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J. G. CHURCHMAN, MANCHESTER
LONDON

ADDRESS.

IF the Author of the following sheets can in any degree render himself useful to Society, from any suggestions they may contain, he will be amply rewarded for his labour; a stranger to flowery speeches and refined language, he conceives that truth appears to most advantage, when cloathed with the garb of simplicity: having no pretension to the advantages of education, he is solely indebted to nature for this little performance, which he flatters himself, will be a sufficient apology for the unavoidable errors they may contain.

Instigated by no other motive but that of the happiness of my fellow Citizens, and knowing the vanity of this transitory life, which is but of short duration, I think it the duty of every one, who
has

has a knowledge of what he is persuaded will be advancing towards the utility and happiness of mankind, not to keep it concealed, but make it known to the world; this, and not the love for one man, or any set of men, has induced me to exercise my feeble abilities in behalf of the happiness of Society at large.

THE

THE CITIZEN, &c.

AT a time like the present, when there appears to be so much dissatisfaction among mankind, it is necessary for every individual to speak the unbiassed sentiments of his mind, and as far as his knowledge extends, to explain the causes from which such universal complaints originate, as well as to exert his best abilities for their speedy removal: In order that society may become more harmonized and happy.

The first object as a growing source of infinite evil, that engages my attention is, the landed property falling into so few hands; the country by this means gets depopulated, and industry is not sufficiently encouraged.

It is a clear case the peasant is much more oppressed now than he was forty years ago.

B

At

At that time in many counties in England the labourer received six shillings per week for his labour, and at this time in the same counties he only receives seven shillings; forty years ago most of the necessaries of life were at half the price they now are, so that the labouring man should at least receive eleven or twelve shillings per week, to make him in as good a situation as he was in at that time.

The next thing to be considered is, to find out the cause from whence this oppression arises. It is in some measure owing to the gentlemen who own the land raising the rent to the highest, by so doing one of the most useful classes of men become much oppressed; and I am sorry to say there is too much of this money, that is squeezed from labour and industry, sunk in luxury, drunkenness, and debauchery. And as soon as the lease of a small farm is expired, it is added to another of larger magnitude. By this means the poor are more oppressed, and the rich live in greater extravagance.

There

There has been more arbitrary acts passed than it would be to pass one, to prevent any person from holding more than a stated quantity of land in their own possession. It would prevent an evil that is greatly complained of; it would encourage industry, and cause those that hold it to endeavour to make it produce as much as possible. People in general are more industrious for their own benefit than they are for the benefit of others. By so doing some thousands would be rendered more happy and comfortable than they now are, by being made their own masters,

And at the same time the proprietors of land should have some humanity and feeling for those to whom they let it, and not raise the rent to that degree, that there is not a living profit to be gained.

By pride and riches there are too many people drawn from industry, which is beginning to appear, else there would not have been a thought of bringing a Corn-harvest bill into parliament, which was

thrown out by reason of its being deemed unjust to prevent men from making the best they can of their labour.

What happiness can a rich man have on reflection, when he says to himself, I have eaten so many oxen, sheep, calves, and innumerable other things, and drank so many hogsheds of beer and wine, what have I ever done for all these necessaries of life? Why he must naturally say that he has received them from the labour and industry of others, therefore he must have been a useless being on earth. He is not satisfied in being thus oppressive himself, but must have such a number to wait on him, and to wait on each other, and I am sorry to say, that a great number of these unnecessary attendants eat, drink, waste, and destroy much more than their masters.

In speaking of these things, it is a melancholy reflection to think that the very men, who are employed in producing all those extravagancies, should have them snatcht from them

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them, and many of them with large families almost debarred the necessaries of life.

O, Humanity where is thy blush !

What a pity it is that so many industrious people should be drawn from being useful members of society, and that to support mistaken pride.

I the author of these few pages have but a very few years, by those means, been led from the country, where I was employed in cultivation and raising the necessaries of life, and nothing would give me more satisfaction than to return to it, provided I could by that means earn a comfortable living; but, alas ! who that knows the oppressions the peasant labours under would return to it, to live in a starving condition.

Leave pride out of the question, and what pleasure can any one feel at having about him half a dozen footmen, butler, valet, groom of the chambers, and innumerable others, equally as useless, gentlemen?

men? if they would consider it for a moment, they would find they are the cause of drawing men from industry; the higher orders of people receive the luxuries of life in abundance, but do not think, at the same time, that to support these luxuries the poor are robbed; and the rich, at some future period, if the same way of going on is continued, will find them not so plentiful.

London is getting of too large magnitude, was it to increase fifty years more in the same proportion it has for fifty years past, and as many people taken from useful labour to wait on those that inhabit it, there would most likely be found wanting a supply of Provisions. What pleasure can arise to the people from living in such numbers together, and breathing unwholesome air? Here a few lines addressed to Spring will not be out of time,

Prone over the east, with all enlivening ray
Like bride-groom, joyous, comes the god of day.
Dull winter flies, with all his gloomy train,
And ev'ry meadow smiles, and ev'ry plain;

On

On hill, in dale, the dapling flow'rets spring,
 And trees bud forth, and feather'd warblers sing.
 Now to the fields her steps fair CELIA bends,
 Where rosy health on innocence attends,
 To view the beauties of the rising year;
 Sweet chirping birds and bleating lambs to hear
 Affords more joy, than to the giddy gay
 The park, assembly, op'ra, ball, or play."

The National Debt is worst of all the oppressions on the people, and requires the serious attention of government. To say that a national debt is necessary, is to say what cannot be supported by sound argument, was there not that inducement which often causes men to be guilty of dishonourable actions, to get money to place in the bank, in order to eat the bread of idleness, there would be thousands more of useful industrious people employed, and at the same time rendered more happy than they now are, by living in extravagance, for I am certain the rich are no more happy than the rest part of mankind. Then why should we be striving, by every means we can devise, after that which is not of real advantage to us. I

and last 1 is bound to admit as well
 had over or would it had not
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well remember a copy that I wrote at school.

“He enjoys enough, who wants no more.”

By having riches men often give themselves up to luxury, profligacy, and debauchery, and by so doing destroy their health and constitution; when this is done they have deprived themselves of the greatest blessings on earth.

The bank has lately endeavoured to crush the paper money in the country, as an evil, by reason of its being disadvantageous to them. So must the enormous papers of the bank be of hurt to society at large; If that is a little evil, the bank must be a very great one, by reason of its being so much more extensive; government set the example, and the subjects are not to blame in following it.

To remedy this evil the legislature ought to take notice of it, and get it amended.

The riches of England is not real, but imaginary; the bank is known to have had
the

the money for which the paper is issued, but what has become of it, why it has been spent in foreign wars. France, Germany, Spain, America, and other parts.

Before I had any knowledge of what the bank received every ones money for that thought proper to take it there, and pay them so much interest for it, I was astonished what they could do with it, I was led to believe they lent it to merchants at a greater interest, but it has been put to a worse purpose, that is, to have thousands, and tens of thousands, of the subjects of this country put to death, and all for the pride and etiquette of courts.

“ War is a game that kings would not play at was their subjects wife.” Will it be said there is any justice in war, it does not decide which is right or which is wrong, but the most powerful is to be the conqueror, and it is most likely the strongest side has given the greatest insults, and been guilty of the most horrid crimes towards the weaker ; we have lately heard of a most shocking instance of the above tyranny, in the division of Poland.

C

They

They wished to enjoy their own opinions; other powers, much superior in numbers, said to them, you shall not think or act as is most conducive to your happiness; but you shall do as we please—so entered the country, and divided it by military force.

What is government paid such enormous sums for, but to study the good of the subjects; then why not listen to the petitions and complaints of the people, and get the abuses they complain of redressed?

What was it but the want of attention in the government of France, that has brought that unhappy country into this lamentable distress?

They had arrived to that degree of pride and luxury, that industry was not sufficiently encouraged to raise the necessaries of life: it is well known they imported corn and many other articles from other countries, for a number of years past, which their own country is as fertile to produce, (with good management) as any upon earth. And I am

forry to say that England is following them very rapidly, both in pride and arbitrary laws.

The French are certainly a treacherous ill-principled set of people; this being the case, it is necessary to find out the cause from whence this depravity arises: will it be said that there is any thing peculiar in the air of France, that infects the minds and principles of the inhabitants, to make them worse than the rest of mankind? I shall answer no, and endeavour to find stronger ground of arguments; the form of government, and the licentious behaviour of the higher ranks of people, has been caught by the lower, and the treachery at length became general.

It will require but very little to be said to the people of this country, to persuade them the court of France has always been a deceitful, ill-principled, treacherous court, to us; this being the case, it is allowed that their government was the foundation of deceit.

The revolution that has happened, is to infill into them better principles, and to make them more free, open, and honest, than they have formerly been; to encourage industry and agriculture, and to check that haughtiness and pride, that has been the bane of all their calamities. There is need of nothing more than to look into the conduct of the country inhabitants of this isle, and they will be found more upright and honest, by reason they are uninfluenced by the debaucheries of the great.

Wealth is what most people covet as the only means of happiness, but how egregiously they are mistaken; real happiness is not to be purchased with gold. How many there are that have it in their power to make themselves happy, as well as a number of others also, but alas, that power wants the will; rather would they squander away as much in one year in gambling, revelling, and debauchery, as would afford a permanent relief to thousands of fellow creatures in distress, who are real objects of their munificence. Time is a drug upon their hands,
and

and amusements are dull and insipid, by reason they are so easily attained.

Too many of these GREAT men's lives are that of dissipation: *great* did I call them! mistaken notion! *great* perhaps by title or property, but *little* in virtue and abilities. Their principles too often render them beneath the lowest of mankind; those who ought to be the highest by the advantage of education. If one man is greater than another, it is his virtue and abilities, not his riches that makes him so. There are hundreds of servants in this kingdom, whose chief, and indeed only employment, is to attend on their employers, for no other purpose but to keep up splendour, some of which are treated with the utmost indignation, and considered very little better than brutes. I am much surpris'd at the rich treating their fellow-creatures in this contemptible manner—some, whose disposition is so through ignorance; being brought up in that supercilious manner, they believe those that are dependant on them are not made of the same materials, but are considered

dered as slaves, and to be treated as their capricious humour directs—While others, through the insolence of office, behave in a manner that shocks humanity—the more oppression the greater their enjoyment. Few of these monied tyrants ever consider the toil and difficulty there is in raising those things they so abundantly destroy.

In order to make society more happy, riches ought never to be the tool of oppression; it was designed for a more noble purpose: if merit always met its just reward, industry would be preferred, and thereby make virtuous those, whose necessities obliges them to be otherwise. Ten thousand pounds a year is enough for any one person, and is a sufficiency to provide, not only all the necessities of life, but as many of its luxuries as any reasonable person will require, and as many servants as is necessary; the keeping more is only encouraging idleness and profligacy, and makes them the greatest pests of society.

Did people strive as much for the attainment of virtue, and endeavour as much to
render

render themselves of use to society, as they do for the attainment of riches, pride and ostentation would not be so prevalent; one would consider it his greatest happiness in rendering another a service. The people thus quitting a substance, and grasping at a shadow, reminds me of a flock of sheep being turned into a field; the best part is run over unnoticed, and at last they return to taste the sweets they passed by. So must the rich give up part of their wealth, before they can enjoy that tranquility and happiness that is reserved for those in a middling sphere of life.

I believe the lower orders of mankind to be as happy as the higher, but by no means equal to those that are between the extremes: the respect that has been shewn to the rich is rapidly on the decline.

The people have been long in ignorance, but that is beginning to disappear, and people are approaching to a state of common understanding; learning is become more general than in former times, and the people assemble

assemble more into large towns, and by conversation diffuse knowledge through each other: by this means the rich, if they do not mend their manners, morals, and behaviour towards mankind, will be looked on at some future period with as much contempt as they now look on those in a lower sphere of life.

I always understood that the best evidence, the soundest language, and the clearest facts, was what people had to decide in favour of. But I must confess it does not appear to me, that these things have been in the smallest degree attended to in the present Sessions of Parliament, or the great majorities would have been on the other side of the question.

The strong and just arguments used against the most destructive war that was ever undertaken, is beginning to manifest itself, by seeing thousands of industrious people in want, occasioned by its direful effects.

The generous support given to the public by opposition, this Sessions of Parliament, deserves

deserves the thanks of the Nation; and from their conduct, it seems likely there is not one of them would bend to interest in supporting the present abuses of government; and not one but would be happy to have it in his power to redress them.

It would have been more praise-worthy in ministers, when they found the people were not satisfied, to have enquired the cause of complaint, and whether it was a just one or not; if it was just, to have redressed it, if not, to have informed them so by pointing their errors; instead of frightening the people into a war with false alarms of sedition, that has never yet been proved to have existed. Was it not said in the House of Commons that it did exist, but it was not proper at that time to make known the authors of it, as it might involve us in a war with France?

Since we have been at war with that REPUBLIC, did not Mr. Sheridan, in as free and open a speech as ever was delivered in Parliament, solicit an enquiry to discover who was the authors of the said sedition, in

D

order

order to prevent the innocent and guilty from being confounded together?

The numerous pensions and places held under the Crown press very hard upon the Public, and calls aloud for the reduction of them; but it seems to be the wish of Government to increase instead of diminish them, by adding to their own power.

What an absurdity it is in having Commissioners for liquidating the National Debt, when in fact it is not paying off, but increasing very rapidly; it looks as if Government was striving to get all the money from the inhabitants they possibly can, to lavish upon whom they please.

To see the public money issued out of the Treasury by thousands, for the support of a set of French scoundrels, that had oppressed their country until they would bear it no longer, and always was endeavouring to destroy and ruin this country!—these are the very people we are supporting, that always was our professed enemies, and only want POWER to make them so again.

The

The present government of France never would have been enemies to us, if we had not by our excessive ill treatment forced them to it; and even at this moment, if we thought proper, there is not a doubt but they would be friends with us.

When men condemn the present rulers of France for their conduct, let them examine their transactions, and not speak so much in ignorance; let them look to their new constitution and point out its faults, if any there be:—they will find by it persons and property are protected, and that it acknowledges no distinctions in rank but those of virtues and abilities.

What right had Prussia and Austria to invade their country, and say you shall still be slaves?

I sincerely believe there is not a nation upon earth, beside France, that could have conducted themselves so well as they have done, to have had so many hardships, treacheries, and arbitrary powers used against them.

The different powers now at war with France have as much right to invade their country, as if a man had put up a partition in his house, for his own convenience, and his neighbours were to combine together to enter his house and pull it down again, because it was superior to theirs.

If other powers had not interfered, it is most likely the whole of the blood that has been spilt since the destruction of the Bastile would have been saved, and France at this time have had a king.

His being encouraged by other powers, caused him to be guilty of that crime that cost him his life, which has drawn the vengeance of almost all the powers of Europe upon that unhappy country, and those very powers most likely were the cause of his death. Is it to be supposed they put him to death for the sake of punishing the man?—it cannot be supposed they would be guilty of so base an action; there was none that pronounced him innocent, but many that wished to save his life; which they would
 4 have

have been generous enough (as a free people) to have given, provided there had not so many interested people stood up in his behalf, which threatened the freedom of that nation.

Then said they, it is better this man fall, who has been the cause of the death of thousands, rather than France should be again enslaved.

The speech of the President, at the time Louis went to be tried, is worthy of notice.

“ I inform the Assembly that Louis is at the gate of the Fuillans. Representatives; you are about to exercise the right of national justice: you must answer to all the citizens of the Republic, for the firm and wise conduct which you will pursue on this occasion. Europe observes you. History records your thoughts, your actions: an impartial posterity will decide upon your conduct with an inflexible severity. Let your attitude be conformable to the new functions you are about to fulfil. Patience, and the profoundest silence, are suited to the characters

ters of judges. The dignity of your sitting ought to answer to the majesty of the French people: it is about to give, through your organ, a great lesson to kings, and an example useful to the world!!”

Louis the Sixteenth was allowed by the new constitution of France, which he swore to support, to the amount of one million, two hundred and fifty thousand pounds sterling, annually, for the maintenance of himself and family.

When I read of his sending notice to his ambassadors at the different courts of Europe, to inform them he was firm to the new constitution, and that he was happy in having it in his power to reign over a free people, I thought him one of the best of kings, in contributing in so eminent degree towards the happiness of mankind; but when it proved to be all deception, and what he had said and done was not the sentiments of his mind, from that moment I expressed my abhorrence of so treacherous a character.

It is to be remarked through life there is a great deal taken from example, then is it to be wondered at that religion is on the decline! By viewing the transactions of a great number of the clergy, one would be taught to believe that they did not put confidence in the doctrines they preach; for my part, I do not see how they can, when the books they found their subjects on are composed of so many contradictions, errors, and falsehoods.

In the tenth chapter of Joshua, and twelfth and thirteenth verses, it is thus written:

12th. Then spake Joshua unto the Lord, in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and said, in the sight of Israel, sun stand thou still upon Gibeon, and thou moon in the valley of Ajalon.

13th. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies, is not this written in the book of Jasher: so the sun stood

stood still in the midst of heaven and halted not to go down about a whole day.

This writing of Joshua prove him to have been a very ignorant man, and what he has wrote is not agreeable to the dictates of truth: he knew nothing of astronomy, or he would not have been guilty of such errors.

The sun is well known to be the center of our system, and moves only in its own orbit, therefore its standing still would cause the light not to remain one minute longer; the movement of the earth it is that causes day and night, and not the movement of the sun.

In the fifth chapter of Numbers, and twenty-seventh verse, is written the punishment to be inflicted upon a woman that goes astray with another man instead of her husband.

27th. And when he hath made her to drink the water, then it shall come to pass, that if she be defiled, and hath done trespass against her husband, that the water that causeth the
curse

curse shall enter into her, and become bitter, and her belly shall swell, and her thigh shall rot; and the woman shall be a curse among her people.

This appears to be as untrue, and something more ridiculous than Joshua's; it looks as if the priests had lost their power, or that they never had any; for I never saw or heard of this part of Scripture being fulfilled; and I doubt not, if it was true, but there would be found somewhere a living instance to attest the fact.

It is endless to dwell upon this subject, for it would take a book larger than the Bible itself to point out the errors and contradictions therein contained.

It is consistent with reason, that every one should enjoy their own opinion in religious matters; and if there is any that are led astray by designing and interested men, it is the duty of those that see their errors to point them out, and to prevent weak and innocent people from being imposed upon.

E

There

There is a sect of people termed methodists, that answers the above description; they preach up a great deal of faith, as if by it alone we are to be saved.

Methodists may be divided into two heads, namely, enthusiasts and knaves: the first of these characters are weak and innocent people, and are firmly persuaded in their own opinions they are right; this gives their teachers an opportunity to prey upon their credulity, and by this means get a good living at their expence: the sanctified appearance of these ministers of imposition preys upon the weakness of their understanding, and makes them believe they are inspired, and that there is no road to heaven but their own.

O, ye weak misguided people, if you were to open your eyes, and look to the base and wicked actions of your leaders, and take notice of the numbers of wives and daughters that have been seduced by their arts, you would no longer be led by those reverend vultures that are preying upon the human race.

By

By the doctrines those people preach, we are informed that our actions are not our own; that all our steps are known to God at the time of our birth; they further add that there is a hell, where people are sent to as a place of punishment.

I have studied this point to the utmost of my abilities, and I cannot get over the absurdity of it: it is making God, instead of being just, to be a very unjust God; to create man, and then guide his steps into hell, there to be tormented to all eternity.

The Roman catholicks are another sett of self-conceited enthusiasts: to make use of the inquisition to torture people into their belief, shews that it is not founded on justice, and that there is not reason and argument in favour of it sufficient to convince men it is right. If they have such power as they pretend to have, which is that of forgiving sins, why do they not free themselves from the persecutions they meet with on earth, in a mortal state, without attempting at immortality? this is sufficient to shew the futility of these empty delusions.

The best principles of religion I know of is, that of acting justly and uprightly to one another. By so doing we show our fear of the Almighty, and consequently leave ourselves in a situation to receive the benefits of a future state. What is after this life is not in the power of any one to make known: for I am well persuaded, that man in a mortal state is as dark to what is after the grave as a child in the womb is to the transactions of this life.

Fashions may be useful to some individuals, but is of great disadvantage to society at large, for that which destroys those things which by nature, industry, and labour, are made to be of service to all, is very destructive and bad for the people.

But it is very plain why it is so much encouraged, by reason there is scarcely any article we have that does not pay a duty to government, so that the more there is destroyed the more profit arises to them. By this means thousands are to drudge on in slavery to keep up pride, pensions, and places.

It

It would save a great deal of unnecessary labour if people were to dress more in one fashion, and that in a plain manner.

What can be said in favour of hair-dressing? which is one of the most destructive fashions that ever was invented. By it a vast number of people are rendered useless to society, a great deal of the necessities of life are destroyed, and cloathes in abundance.

There is many poor men that absolutely rob their families of the supports of nature through this mistaken and ridiculous pride. They will go and pay sixpence to have their head filled with flour and lard, to make it ten times more uncomfortable than it would be combed through like a farmer's, when at the same time their children are at home crying for bread.

The utility of hair-dressing is completely done away: it was invented to shew a distinction in rank, and was in use only by the higher orders of people, but now it is

so far degenerated, that by taking a walk in the Park, you would not be enabled to distinguish the apprentice boy from his grace.

Suppose that Government was to issue out such a quantity of Exchequer Bills, and keep on wars, to increase the National Debt to such a length as to make paper money sufficient for the whole nation to live upon; who then would till the land? or where is the necessaries of live to come from? And it seems as if this business was increasing at an amazing rate; for where there was one that lived upon the paper money of the Bank fifty years ago, there is at this time five, by reason it has increased to five times the sum within that period; and paper money is the whole of it an oppression upon the public.

Government set the example, and the people are not to blame in following it, even to almost the very lowest order; and until it is done away, I am afraid there will be but little happiness among mankind.

The government of England has, for some ages, been one of the best of governments; and

and there is at this time a number of as good laws as can be framed for the happiness of the people, but it has not kept pace with time; instead of getting better, it has for many years been on the decline.

This assertion I believe no one will attempt to disprove, unless it should be said that borrowing of money, and loading the people with taxes, by this means increasing the power of the crown, which is already too weighty for the subject; if these can be made appear to be of benefit to the country at large, then it may be said to be getting better; if this cannot be proved (and I am certain it is not, by all the logic, rhetoric, and philosophy that can be produced) then it is clear to be much worse.

When an honourable Member of the House of Commons said the numerous bankruptcies that happened was a proof of the flourishing state of the country, it might as well be said that a national bankruptcy would also shew our prosperity.

The

The treatment that Opposition have received this Session of Parliament, shew them to be men of integrity and sound principle; or they would not have been able to have endured it with that mildness and fortitude with which they have conducted themselves.

The conduct of Administration has lately been such, that I cannot think it has been for the benefit of the country; and unless it changes and listens to the complaints of the people, it is possible it may not always be so well supported as it has been.

They are now carrying on the most unjust and unnecessary war that ever was undertaken, by which means thousands are starving for want of employment; besides this, they are passing laws, in spite of sound reason and good sense, that annihilates the liberty of the subject.

I will say with Mr. Whitbread, that I am not fearful of democratic principles overturning our constitution, but the rapid strides of
despotism

despotism are likely to do it. The strong and just petitions that have been presented in favour of a parliamentary reform, and their being taken so little notice of in the House of Commons, after so much said in favour of them and so little against them, is a gross insult upon the people, from whom they ought to derive their authority.

It appears as if there was some black and heinous transactions lay hidden there in obscurity, which they are fearful should be made known to the world; or for what reason should they oppose a committee to enquire into the state of our representation?

This, and the principal debates of the present Sessions of Parliament, has contributed in a great measure towards opening the eyes of the people, and they are beginning at this time to think seriously for themselves, and think they will; and I do not know of any law to prevent men from thinking; and it is time for Ministers to begin seriously to think of alleviating the distresses of the country.

What is it that causes gentlemen of large independent fortunes, and as just and upright characters as any in the kingdom, to stand up boldly and disinterestedly for the good of the people, but that of humanity and a tender feeling for the distresses of their fellow-creatures, when they are convinced that any change or alterations that should take place will be of no advantage to them, but greatly to the benefit of society at large?

It did Mr. Fox's humanity infinite credit, when he said it was wrong of gentlemen in the House of Commons, who he observed were men of learning and knew better, to dupe and impose upon the people out of doors; who he said was ignorant, and guided by their majorities: but I must confess, I do not think the people out of doors so ignorant as perhaps many of the members of that house would wish them to be.

It was an admirable expression of an honourable Member when he said, upon the parliamentary reform, that the smallest numbers were most likely to be right. Mr. Sheridan

ridan said he perfectly coincided in opinion with the honourable Member, and he had not a doubt but he should verify the assertion in the division on the motion at that time before them, by being one of the smallest numbers, consequently he should be right.

These, and a vast number of other circumstances that daily present themselves to the public, cannot fail to open the eyes of the people, and in time they will see the imposition they labour under.

There are many sensible good characters in this kingdom that wish well to their country, and are sorry to see it abused, and are striving by mild and gentle means to do away those abuses; by reforming them by degrees, without running the hazard of more serious consequences; but the influence is so great against them, they are not enabled to accomplish their good intentions.

It is shocking to humanity, to see any person in want who has the happiness to live in

so fine a country as England, that is formed by nature to produce all the necessaries of life equal to any nation in the world.

To surmount these difficulties and impositions, it is the duty of every one to speak and make his voice heard, and not to have his thoughts frightened into him by arbitrary power, and be fearful to speak his own just sentiments. Are not those vultures of Government frequenting almost every public house in London, and using arbitrary means to prevent the people from speaking truth and justice?

The fact is, when a man is bold enough to give his opinion on the abuses of Government, there is a cry by those who live upon the labour of the public, of "Kick him out, turn him out, out with him—he is a dangerous man to imposition, pensions, and places!!"

Instead of those arbitrary methods, there should be fair and upright language used to convince men they are wrong; but this will

not answer their purpose, the cause is so bad they have no alternative left but that which they have taken, which is that of arbitrary power.

I will endeavour to shew, in some measure, the astonishing power the people have to combat with: in the first place, there is about seventeen millions of taxes; besides this, there are rangers of parks, forests, and many other places, that do not come within the meaning of taxes, at the same time they are props to the Crown; by these means we may add one million more, which will make it eighteen millions; the inhabitants of this country are stated at nine millions, so that upon an average, there is forty shillings worth of influence added to the Crown by every man, woman, and child in the kingdom.

In respect to equal liberty and laws in England is out of the question, for who will pretend to say the game laws are equal, when the farmer pays to the very utmost farthing rent for his land, so that the game that is raised upon his farm destroys the property

perty which he pays for, consequently if right was to take place it belongs to him; but how widely different is this from the principles of justice, when, if he was to kill one of those birds which he has been at the expence of rearing, he would be liable to be sent to prison; and there he must remain, if it was not in his power to pay fine and other charges that are brought against him; and at the same time, a gentleman shall have authority to go over the land belonging to the farmer and rob him of his property: I do not see that it can be deemed any thing less than a robbery; for I never heard of an exception in a lease, to say you shall not have what your land produces.

Where it is said that law is equal to all, I must differ in opinion, for it is certain there is a great deal of law to be purchased by riches, and if a poor man is not enabled to go on with it, he must put up with the loss, and submit to the power of gold that is against him, and this is too often the case. Depravity is arrived to such a degree among the higher orders of the people, that to satisfy

tisfy their own capricious humour, there is many of them would waste in law ten times the sum, rather than pay an honest man his just demand.

The numerous carriages that are driving through the streets are a great annoyance to industrious people, who are going about their lawful business; it not only causes delay at almost every street they have to pass, but oftentimes endangers their persons; they are frequently used for the indulgence of idleness only, and oftentimes the people that are riding in them would find it more conducive to their health if they were to walk on foot.

Some do it through pride, to shew they are possessed of one, and to make appear all their greatness in pomp, parade, and outside shew, at the same time there is but little greatness within: it frequently happens that there is more good sense and abilities riding behind the coach than there is within it. I should not in the least envy the life of the rich, for the pleasure or enjoyment they have

have, which is not very permanent, if it was not for the slavery of mankind on their account.

There are no limits set to riches, so that man is never satisfied: when he has by means, oppression, and tyranny over his fellow-creatures, amassed such vast stock, more than can be of any service to him, he is still craving after more, as when he first began; and by leaving it to his heir, it is not unlikely but he may be of disgraceful character, and by this means he has put it into his power to be an oppression upon mankind, and to be enabled to purchase a great stock of the liberty of the people.

The Agriculture Bill is calculated to increase the power of the Crown, whatever may be said to the contrary: Will it be denied that the money is not collected from the people! it is certain that it is, and distributed by the hands of Government; and it is a matter of indifference whether it is clerks, commissioners, or any other sort of people, that receive it, the influence is the same.

And

And I will venture to pronounce, that whenever the Agriculture Bill takes place, it is not of two pence benefit to society at large. Is it to be supposed they will give ploughs, harrows, and horses to the poor farmers that are in want of them?—no: the whole of the salary goes into their hands, for them to amuse themselves with their own theory and nonsense.

I can lay down an effectual plan for agriculture in a few words:—Let the rich be compelled, according to their property, to discharge the National Debt; let them send back thousands to the plough that have lately come from it, instead of keeping them in idleness and extravagance.

What pleasure can arise in keeping stout, hearty young fellows, to go about the streets paying visits for their ladies?—John, bring me the book, do I visit Lady such a one?—What friendship is there in this sort of life, when perhaps they would scarcely know each other if they were to meet; and have never eat or drank at each other's expence

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in their life! Let them give up that pride which causes men to be uselessly employed, such as polishing a steel buckle for the waist, which is of no service; or in making a pair of scissors so beautiful as to sell for five guineas, when a pair at half a crown are equally as useful. If you say men must be employed, send them to agriculture, and let them become useful members of society; if you further add that it encourages trade, so it may, in making their masters independent by their industry, and then burthening the public to keep them.

Build comfortable houses in different parts throughout the country for those who cultivate the land, pay them better wages, and I will engage for it England, in a few years, will become one perfect garden, and produce all necessaries of life in abundance, that every one may have a sufficiency, and not be in the state it now is, to rob the poor to feed the rich.

There is a growing source of evil, which is the vast numbers of useless horses that are
kept;

kept; it causes a great deal of land to be rendered useless for their support, which might otherwise be cultivated for much nobler purposes.

In respect to elective governments being theory and not reduced to practice, I deny it; for we have an instance to the contrary in the government of America, which is a free elective one, and not excelled at this time on the face of the earth (except the new constitution of France); by encouraging industry, all the necessaries of life flow in abundance. The whole expences of the government of that country is not half so much as the king of England's salary alone; and General Washington, as President of the United States of America, is allowed five thousand pounds a year: says he, "I have a fortune sufficient to live upon, therefore let the people that labour for it receive the benefit," and he does the duty free of expence.

These good wishes for the people, is an example worthy of imitation by all the kings of the earth.

General Washington raises vast quantities of corn on his own land, and when the duties of his office will permit him, he superintends the cultivation of it himself; rises early in the morning and goes to bed at nine at night.

In that country, they are not insulting the human understanding by the hereditary system; they have no House of Lords, by which men are born legislators, let their principles or abilities be either good or bad, neither have they prevented posterity from ever making improvements; they have left their constitution in a situation to receive amendments whenever they shall be clearly understood.

What an absurdity it would have been in our progenitors to have bound us always to have gone naked, and live in huts covered with boughs of trees: the thousands and tens of thousands of improvements that have from time to time been made, is sufficient to convince men they ought not to be bound down from exercising their abilities for the good of the community at large.

F I N I S.

